

**From:** Maier, Brent  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:36 PM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill  
**Cc:** Skadowski, Suzanne; Higuchi, Dean  
**Subject:** End of Day - Congressional and Intergovernmental

<b>Tracking:</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Read</b>
	Zito, Kelly	Read: 3/19/2015 3:40 PM
	Keener, Bill	Read: 3/19/2015 4:42 PM
	Skadowski, Suzanne	Read: 3/19/2015 4:21 PM
	Higuchi, Dean	Read: 3/19/2015 3:39 PM

### **Congressional and Intergovernmental:**

**Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Region IX Nominations:** Brent Maier submitted to OCIR's Fran Eargle the Region IX nominations for the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) which included the Regional Administrator signed nomination form along with the supporting documentation for each of our nominees. The Region IX nominees are Serge Dedina, Mayor of Imperial Beach and Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Councilmember.

**Congressional Outreach on CWA Jurisdictional Determination for Salt Ponds:** Last night, Suzanne Skadowski shared a copy of the March 18, 2015 letter from the U.S. EPA Region 9 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Clean Water Act jurisdictional determination for the Cargill Redwood City Salt Plant property with the Offices of Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jackie Speier. This morning, Brent Maier also shared the same letter with the other Members of Congress who had signed on to a Rep. Speier letter to the ACOE on this same issue including the offices of Representatives Mark DeSaulnier, Anna Eshoo, Sam Farr, John Garamendi, Mike Honda, Jared Huffman, Barbara Lee, Zoe Lofgren, Eric Swalwell, and Mike Thompson.

**Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA-18):** Brent Maier received an inquiry from Paul Beck, Environmental Counsel in the Congresswoman's DC Office who wanted to know whether our letter to ACOE regarding the CWA jurisdictional determination for the Cargill Redwood City Salt Plan property automatically suspends the Army Corps' ongoing jurisdictional determination process and bring it instead under the EPA's purview. He also asked about any sense of the approximate timeframe for this kind of determination. Brent shared Paul Beck's inquiry with our Water Division and Front Office and sent a note to Paul that Suzanne Skadowski will be following up with him on our response as soon as it is available.

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA):** Brent Maier received an inquiry from Sabiha Khan who was following up from a recent briefing we had with her and others on some updates for the Montrose/Del Amo Superfund Site and the Orange County North Groundwater Basin Cleanup. Brent passed along the following update information to Ms. Khan. **Montrose/Del Amo:** As to whether we had received any sampling results from the ongoing sampling at Montrose/Del Amo, I checked in with Dana Barton who is a Chief in our California Cleanup Section who told me that we have received draft results, but that they are now undergoing a quality assurance process. We have not seen any draft results from the sampling to date that indicate vapor intrusion in the homes that we have sampled, but once we have final results or information to share, we will be sure to pass that information along to your office. **Orange County North Groundwater Basin Cleanup:** As to the status of a meeting between EPA and the Orange County Business Council, I spoke with Rich Hiatt who is a Chief in our California Site Cleanup Section who is working to arrange a meeting with EPA and the Orange County Business Council (OCBC). Rich has reached out to Bryan Starr at OCBC and shared with him some potential

dates and times for a meeting with Enrique Manzanilla, Director of our Superfund Division in EPA's San Francisco Regional Office in April (4/14-16). Mr. Starr indicated that one of those dates would work for them and that he will get back to Rich to confirm one of those dates. Brent Maier will follow up with Sabiha Khan once a final meeting date is decided upon to let her know.

**President Barack Obama Signs New Green House Gas (GHG) Executive Order:** President Barack Obama signed an executive order this morning aimed at further reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by the federal government. The White House official said that several "major" government suppliers plan to make pledges to cut their own greenhouse gas emissions. After signing the executive order, Obama will head to the Energy Department to tour its rooftop solar panels and attend a discussion with government suppliers about their emissions reduction targets or disclosing their emission figures. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/19/executive-order-planning-federal-sustainability-next-decade>

**California Governor Jerry Brown and State Legislature:** California will put \$1 billion toward drought relief, Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and legislative leaders said today. Bills that Brown and state Senate and Assembly leaders announced will expedite spending on part of the money from a \$7.5 billion bond that state voters passed in November. The new legislation includes money for local drought relief and infrastructure projects aimed at protection from extreme weather events. The package also accelerates \$128 million in spending from Brown's proposed fiscal 2015-2016 budget to provide help to workers and communities hit by drought. One of the two bills announced will speed up contracting for funds by creating an office tasked with helping communities most hurt by the drought. There will be \$272 million in Proposition 1 money for safe drinking water and water recycling and \$660 million for flood protection in urban and rural areas. Brown said that the budget typically isn't passed until June but that action was needed now. – *E&E News PM*

**California Legislative Analyst's Office - Hearing Handout - Achieving State Goals for the Delta - March 19, 2015:** Presented to: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation. <http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2015/Delta-Goals-031915.pdf>

### **Legislation Update:**

**H.R. 897:** The House Agriculture Committee today voted unanimously to pass [H.R. 897](#), a bill that would strip U.S. EPA of its authority to regulate pesticide applicators who spray over waterways under the Clean Water Act. The bill would nullify a 2009 federal court decision in *National Cotton Council v. EPA* that directed EPA to require Clean Water Act permits from applicators who spray over "navigable waters," as defined in the law.

**[H.R. 1029: EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015](#)** - This bill's text for status *Passed the House (Engrossed)* (Mar 17, 2015) is now available.

**[H.R. 1388: To improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.](#)** - This bill's text is now available.

**[S. 785: A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.](#)** - Sponsor: [Sen. Robert "Bob" Casey \[D-PA\]](#) - This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works which will consider it before sending it to the Senate floor for consideration.

**[H.R. 1426: To ensure public access to published materials concerning scientific research and development activities funded by Federal science agencies.](#)** - Sponsor: [Rep. James Sensenbrenner \[R-WI5\]](#) This bill was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology which will consider it before sending it to the House floor for consideration.

**H.R. 1030: Secret Science Reform Act of 2015** - Last Action: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 241 - 175 (Roll no. 125). This bill passed in the House on March 18, 2015 and goes to the Senate next for consideration.

**EPA FY2016 Budget Update:** The Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee Budget Hearing on the EPA's FY2016 Budget originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for Wednesday April 29th starting at 9:30 AM. The hearing will be held in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing room – 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Administrator McCarthy will be the only witness and will discuss the fiscal year 2016 EPA budget.